

THE TOWER TIE

The Newsletter of the
First Presbyterian Church of Goshen

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June 2013

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" (Luke 17:5)

Ever heard of the Armoured Mistfrog? Me neither.

Australia's tropical northern region is home to this species, but none have been seen since 1991. At 1.5 inches long that's not surprising. They're easy to miss. But the long absence of their short bodies has led scientists to conclude that the species is extinct, killed off by a fungus that has infected the area.

Now the scientists are re-visiting that conclusion. A few years ago a doctoral student at James Cook University in Townsville came across the Armoured Mistfrog while conducting research on another frog species. This has to be the academic equivalent of winning the lottery!

So . . . we thought it was extinct, gone, wiped out. But we've seen it again. They exist. They aren't mighty and numerous, but they are there.

There are days when genuine faith seems nearly extinct. We know it must be out there somewhere, but there are moments when we're not sure it's in us. So much of what we see in the world erodes what faith we have. We may know what we believe. What we lack is a robust faith that undergirds our living.

This same sense of lack may have prompted the urgent request of Jesus' first followers: "Increase our faith." The Greek is better rendered "add faith to us." However you say it, the gist is the same. We need more faith. We don't think we have enough, and we know there's more to be had. Jesus' reply to their request should encourage us.

Jesus said that the faith of a mustard seed could do powerful things. With mustard seed faith they could command a tree to throw itself into the ocean and it would happen. In other words, we want more faith, but Jesus tells us it doesn't take much.

When we think about God's mission in this world, his active and ongoing restoration project, we often use the image of seed and sprout, of planting and gathering a harvest. Belonging to God's kingdom and participating in God's mission means we sow seeds of his presence and power and love in the places where we are each day. But doing this requires faith.

This may be one of those days when faith seems hard to find. Like the Armoured Mistfrog, you may not have seen it for a while, but that doesn't mean your faith is extinct. It may be small, but it's there.

The most lethal temptation for those who want to engage the world in Jesus' name is the temptation to despair. Do not be overwhelmed by what you see in the world. Do not be overwhelmed by the circumstances that come

your way or the questions that enter your mind or the emotions that cloud your heart. Offer God what faith you have and live this day knowing that God can do plenty with that.

Peace in Christ,
Pastor Kingsley

JUNE IS A TIME OF WRAPPING UP

Here we are, leaving May behind and moving into June, a month of “wrap-ups.” School gets out; the Christian education season finishes; and we start making plans to enjoy the summer. It’s a time to move outside and enjoy the bounty of God’s creation. Take some time to sit in the Meditation Garden (please sign up and take a turn keeping it weed-free); or bring a special concern from your life, walk the labyrinth, and receive your answer.



The labyrinth is an ancient tool for prayer and meditation. It consists of a winding path that begins at the periphery and leads to a central space. The same path is used to exit the labyrinth. Before entering, spend a few moments standing or sitting quietly at the periphery and allow yourself to become still and attentive. Breathe. Invite the Holy Spirit to be with you as you begin the walk. Enter the path and move at your own pace, pausing and feeling the curves of the labyrinth as you wish. Spend some time in the center of the labyrinth seeking awareness of God’s presence. This may be a time of healing, clarity, or dedication of self. When you are ready, return on the outward path and carry with you any insights or blessings you may have received. Express your gratitude. The labyrinth is a place of beauty and sacredness—you will be blessed.

Our dedicated chancel choir continues to bring music all summer. During the week, we may be outside enjoying warm weather pursuits, but we’re here on Sunday morning observing the rhythm of the week. We pause to reflect, sing, pray, listen to God’s word, and fellowship together at coffee hour. That time on Sunday mornings is special, and it can send us into the week refreshed and energized.

Soak up the joy; breathe the fresh air; walk your worries away.

Robert Clooney
Director of Ministry of Music

FROM THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Picnic Time...

The Christian Education Committee encourages you all to remember the Deacon’s picnic on Father's Day, June 16. It will be the end-of-the-year activity for the Sunday school students, who will be making a presentation in church that Sunday.

Then we will all go out after the church service and enjoy the Deacon's picnic and play games.

Many thanks to the Deacons for planning this and including Sunday school children.



HUG HAPPENINGS – NEWS FROM THE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Another month has gone by and again the ministry is sending out “hugs” to many.

Jo Wolfe reported that she has been handing out some before they even get to church. By the time she finishes a shawl or a blanket it has found itself a home. I think most of us realize that while we are working on something, we don’t know where it will end up. But God has a plan for our work of love and its destination is determined before it is even finished.

Recently a lap robe was sent to Westchester Medical Center for a fourteen year old 8th grader who resides in Sugar Loaf, New York. She was diagnosed with Viral Meningitis and she needed a little love to get her over the time she was missing from family, friends, and school. Another shawl was sent to a ninety year old lady in Monroe, New York who had recently fallen and could no longer live alone. She was sad about losing her independence and having to rely on her daughters for her care. I understand she had once crocheted and so this gift meant a lot more to her as she used to be someone who made items like this. She was very pleased to receive it. Still another shawl was sent to a Warwick School secretary who will be having surgery on her brain in the next month. She wasn’t feeling well and it was determined she had a condition that she was born with similar to an aneurysm. She has had to have several procedures done before she can have the actual surgery. Her twin sister delivered the “hug” to her to help her deal with her anxiety.

I saw Toni Niedel at services and she told me that the shawl we presented to her mom on the loss of Toni’s father has found a new home. Toni had a connection with a family that lost their son in the Boston bombing. She sent the shawl (with the color blue for healing, made by Joan Butensky) to the family with the appropriate prayers from the church. She said she received an email back saying that they appreciated the gesture and loved the shawl. Toni keeps a selection of prayers at home in case she needs to send them with a “hug.” Thank you, Toni for sharing this with us.

As many of you know, we give a gift of a baby blanket to those babies who are baptized in our church. I understand the families are thrilled to have this keepsake to take home as an extra remembrance of the special day in their child’s life. Thank you to Barbara Hankins and the other ladies that always make sure that the gift is ready on the day of the event. We continue to be blessed by the gifts of yarn and other items necessary to continue this wonderful ministry. God bless each of you.

Wendy Paffenroth- PSM Secretary

My term as Moderator of Deacons is coming to a close after 6 years and I wanted to say THANK YOU to each and every Deacon that has worked with me during this time. It has been a joy to be a part of such a great group of hardworking people. For those of you who do not know what it takes to be a Deacon, it is like being a jack of all trades to the church and every Deacon has done a wonderful job of completing all of their duties. I want to say good luck to Carolyn Keller and Carol Gabella who have graciously agreed to take over being Moderator and Vice Moderator, respectively. They are two phenomenal women who will do an amazing job for the church during their terms. And thank you to all of the church members as well. You have been very supportive of me while I have been in office and I appreciate the vote of confidence that I often receive.

Thank You and God Bless You All.

Lori Baird



Presbyterian Women's Association (PW) News

The ladies of the church met for their regular monthly meeting on Monday, May 6, in the church parlor. Fran Hoffmann led us as the moderator, and we signed cards that will be sent out for various reasons, such as "thinking of you," "get well," "birthday wishes," etc.

Fran informed the ladies that we had a nice turnout at the Christian Reformed Church for the tea on May 3. It was a lovely event held in their youth room, and women from all the Goshen churches were there. It was a wonderful afternoon of fellowship and sharing with other Goshen women.

We had a discussion about the Memorial Day bake sale, which was held on Friday, May 24. Several women who have helped in the past are working this year, so you probably saw some new faces behind the table. We had handed out some dishes so that the members of the congregation who offered to bake for us could put their baked goods on them. Thank you for your donations. This bake sale has become a tradition, as we are always there the day the Farmers' Market opens. By the time you read this, we hope we can tell everyone that we had a successful day. A lot of it will depend on the weather.

Those present talked about this year's honoree luncheon, and we are hoping to get some feedback from former honored ladies about how we should do and where we should have the luncheon. It was suggested that we either combine the "Picnic in July" with the June luncheon or move the entire event to some other time in the summer, as there is so much going on in June. We will probably have all the details by the time the next Tower Tie is printed. Orra Wood has also generously offered the use of her lake house for an event that the ladies would like to have. We will pass the word around and discuss this further at our June meeting.

Our meetings are at 7:30 p.m. in the church parlor on the first Monday of each month. We hope you will consider joining us and share fellowship at the June 3 meeting. We would love to have new ideas to share with those who come out. We usually have a nice refreshment at the conclusion of the meeting as well.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy Lee Paffenroth
PW Secretary

I want to personally thank the following people for the amazing job that was done at the Deacons' Spaghetti and Meatball Dinner on May 18th:

Carol Gabella for her wonderful cooking, kitchen supervision and organization throughout the event

Brian Meek for cooking alongside Carol throughout the entire food service

Geri Corey for advertising the dinner in the Chronicle, with a wonderful article that drew a crowd

Diana Bowe, Laura Colacci, Barbara Drake, Lori Kilmer, Kathleen Kingsley, Mary Kingsley, Kelly McCloud,

Tina McCloud, Shannon Mills, Richard Paulus, Jenn Piller, Gregg Piller, Cheryl Zis, Hannah Taylor, Kari

Taylor for serving each guest with courtesy and finesse, for getting the salads/food prepped, the ice cream sundaes made, the tables cleared, the dishes washed and the kitchen cleaned at the end.

Each and every person worked so hard to make a wonderful evening for every guest that arrived. Thank you to all of you for a job very well done.

Thank you to every member of the church who generously supported our efforts and enjoyed this lovely evening with us.

I am pleased to announce that we made \$957.20 for the Deacons' account, which cares for the Minister's Discretionary Fund.

Thank You from all of the Deacons.

Lori Baird, Moderator of Deacons

The Power of the Faith Community

On Sunday, April 28, five homes were added to the number of Habitat homes built for working families in Newburgh. The homes were dedicated at the conclusion of Habitat Newburgh's fourteenth annual "Walk for Housing." The group of attached homes (referred to as "**Faith Builds**") were sponsored by Presbyterians, Methodists, Episcopalians, Baptists, and an array of other faiths joining in the construction of "Unity House."

Jonathan Reckford, the CEO of Habitat for Humanity International, said it beautifully in his congratulations to us:

"The faith community in Newburgh has grasped the vision of the Great Architect. Despite what the neighborhood looked like previously, you could see God at work in the city. You understand how important adequate and stable housing is to health and education, to improving jobs and attracting businesses—to the overall health of the larger community. I commend all of the congregations and faith groups who have claimed God's promises and have joined together to change lives and redirect the future."

Eugenia Edwards, Fund Development Manager of Habitat for Humanity of Greater Newburgh, wrote the following to the faith communities:

"It is a humbling honor to work so closely with you all. I know I am not alone in that feeling. Your communities not only preach God's love, but you show us the power of that love through your incredible support of our hardworking families and this community. Sunday was a glorious day to celebrate our joint commitment to ensuring that God remains at the center of our work. Knowing that we have the support of your hearts, hands, and treasure allows us to embrace the challenges that the future undoubtedly holds. Please continue to hold Habitat Newburgh in your fervent prayers. We look forward to many future celebrations reflecting God's love in action."

Look at what can be accomplished when people work together!

Sue Varden
PresbyBuild Committee

From the Circuit Rider

Hello to all! It was wonderful being in church with you twice last month. I haven't had many free Sundays, and when I do have a free Sunday, it feels a bit strange not to be compiling and reading all week, writing on Saturday, and getting up at 4:00 a.m. on Sunday.

Since the beginning of the year, I've been preaching all over the map (Newburgh, Pine Bush, Thompson Ridge, Lake Huntington, Hortonville, Jeffersonville, Liberty, and [coming up soon] Milton). All the congregations are wonderful, each with a distinct and different personality.

In addition, I'm the representative from Presbytery to Sullivan County's churches for their "County Connection." Members from each of the Sullivan County churches get together to discuss what they're planning for outreach events. In part, this serves to keep them from duplicating events on the same day, which would detract from attendance. The meeting also serves as an idea swap. I help bring them ideas from the recent Presbytery meetings. They've picked up on the Prison Partnership letter-writing campaign and have done a terrific job encouraging those folks in their efforts to become productive. I've taken a post office box in Goshen for the return address, so if any of YOU are interested in this project, please let me know and I'll get you started.

Late last fall, we held a very successful CROP Walk in Jeffersonville, complete with sales of bake goods and Church World Service items. They raised close to \$4,000 for CROP; in fact, by the time this letter hits the newsstands, their donation will most likely have topped their \$4,000 goal.

Presbytery meetings continue to be inspirational—new ideas abound. It's really terrific what's happening in this Presbytery. It would be wonderful to see some of you there!

Outside of my work for Region 4 of the Presbytery, I also attend our Commissioned Lay Pastor (CLP) meetings every four to eight weeks; I'm on the CLP coordinating committee; I have been on the committee overseeing the transition of the Unionville church to the PCA; and I have recently been appointed the Education Coordinator for the Presbytery's new Disaster Assistance Committee. Few dull moments!

I look forward to seeing you out and about. But, since I'm booked each Sunday into July, I won't be seeing you at church on Sundays. Be sure to let your light shine!

Blessings,

Anne Wood, CLP
in mission from Goshen to Region 4

THANK YOU

Grover and I would like to thank all of you who helped to set-up, clean up, worked, and supported us at the Spring Plant Sale and the Community Yard Sale. It was a beautiful weekend. We realized a profit of \$1,532.15 from the plant sale. We made \$250.00 from the Community Yard Sale. There were nine spaces and five tables rented. Everyone enjoyed the day and some people also bought plants.

Darlene Bartley

GELGEMS FOR A CAUSE

Linda's Office Supplies is partnering with the Tiffany Window Fundraising Committee to create a beautiful GelGem Window to help raise money. Michele Meek, a church member and an employee of Linda's, is going to create this window using her paints and gelgems, which are window clings used for decorating glass.

There will be three prizes awarded to the best windows.

Grand Prize - \$1000

Runner up - \$500

2nd Runner up - \$250

The window will be ready for viewing by May 24. In order to win, the community must vote online between June 3 – 14 at www.gelgems.com. Help us rally everyone to vote and make our entry a winner. Winners will be announced on June 21.

Dear Cecile,

We wish to give a special donation of CHAI to Goshen's First Presbyterian Church Tiffany Window Project Restoration in honor of PAT GREEN! CHAI means LIFE in the Jewish religion and this is a dedication in honor and celebration of the life of Pat Green who endlessly gives of herself with her entire heart, soul and body. Her dedication, effortlessness and hard work are a testimonial to this woman of valor who was the Chairwoman of the Tiffany Ball. It is also dedicated to the renewal of LIFE given to the First Presbyterian Church Tiffany Windows. We hope and pray all your windows are brought back to life! CHAI, is represented by Judaism's magical number 18, and so today we are sending this check out to you for \$18 as a donation to help you complete your project.

Wishing you all God's blessings,
Meryl and Larry Migdel

PLEASE PAY YOUR PER CAPITA ASSESSMENT FOR 2013

Every year, the Presbytery of the Hudson River charges every member church an assessment according to the current active membership. Our recorded active membership is currently **348** and **our assessment per member** (not per family) **for 2013 is \$30.00**, which is a total of **\$10,440.00** to be taken from our operating budget. Please assist with this expense and write a check for your family assessment, if you haven't already done so, and either mail it to the church or place it in the Sunday offering plate. Thanks for doing your share.

TIDBITS FROM THE TOWER

HAPPY JUNE BIRTHDAYS TO:

1	<i>Benjamin Walsh</i>	13	<i>Maggie Calzaretta</i>
3	<i>Kate Laskoski</i>		<i>Charles Quick</i>
4	<i>Dave Paffenroth</i>	14	<i>Jean Stukey</i>
5	<i>Shannon Countryman</i>		<i>Rob Warner</i>
	<i>Allison Csernai</i>	16	<i>Mark Keller</i>
6	<i>Gary Laskoski</i>	17	<i>Sophie Fontana</i>
	<i>David Totten</i>		<i>Heather Johnson</i>
7	<i>Kevin Fenner</i>	19	<i>Glenn Bischof</i>
	<i>Jessica Spencer</i>	20	<i>Evan McDowell</i>
9	<i>Julia Paulus</i>	21	<i>Luke Garofalo-Wade</i>
10	<i>Robert Boardman</i>	22	<i>Anne Wood</i>
	<i>Deb Hourahan</i>	26	<i>Robert Pietroapolo</i>
		30	<i>Cecile Ayres</i>

HAPPY JUNE ANNIVERSARIES TO:

2	<i>Tyler and Audra Cox</i>
	<i>Robert and Jennifer Fitzpatrick</i>
4	<i>Jeff and Donna Totton</i>
7	<i>David and Mary Kingsley</i>
9	<i>Dave and Laura Bryson</i>
12	<i>Craig and Sara Benson</i>
20	<i>Bob and Doris Weinberger</i>
25	<i>Ray and Sue Ruckdeschel</i>
26	<i>Don and Fran Hoffmann</i>
29	<i>Scott and Mary Roper</i>
30	<i>George and Barbara Hankins</i>

If you are also celebrating a special day, we wish you much happiness. If you would like your birthday and/or anniversary included, please give your dates to Pat in the church office.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

- *Our 2013 High School Graduates: Elise Frederick, Jonathan Laskoski, Matt Skyer, Kate Skyer, Jessica Spencer, Mackenzie Sproul, and Ashley Wade.*
- *Dr. Deborah Spencer on receiving the Orange Regional Medical Center's Leadership Award.*
- *Adam Keller who graduated from the Nursing Program at Sullivan County Community College.*



PRAYER CORNER

The following members or friends are going through a time in which they have asked for prayer by the church. Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Vince Ahrens
The Barron Family
Mary Lee and Ted Berry
Haley Buckley
Laura Colacci's father
Bruce and Jean Crandall
Bob Dennis
Everyone serving in the Military
Ben Fisher
Fran Genovese
Kevin and Sara Hankins
Audrey Howell
Bob and Barbara Kennedy
Roberta Kinnamon
Lyndsay Krutki
Robert Lobb
James Magee
Evelyn Mercado
Jude Monteleone
Richard Nash
Oretsky Family
Amy Pemberton
Ilona Reichl
Ted Sandstrom
Fred Schwarz
Megan Slasinski
Sue Stenson
Judy Thompson and Family
Joe and Mark VanZandt
Wendy-Bynum Wade
The Weinberger Family
Orra and Dale Wood

Dedra Altizer
Emily Barry and Family
Gabriel Bittner
Sarah Burrows
Grace Cook
Shannon Decker
Joe Destefano
Evie and Family
Norm and Sharon Frelinger
The George Family
The Hartzel Family
Rosemary Joy
Laura and Tom Kennedy
Mae Kratz
Grace, Frank and Fran Leva
Steven Longobardo
The Family of Melissa Martucci
Jeff Monroe
Heather Mustavs
Nina and Jason
Ann Ott
Velma Peters
Tim Richardson
Tom Sawyer
Bryan Scott and Family
Peggy Srirach
Bill and Jean Strong
George Tietz
Kenya VanZandt
Jean Wade
Jo Wolfe
Phyla Wright

Millie Augere
JoAnna Becerril
Brandy Bond
Mary Carr
Carol Coon
Mary Jane DeFreece
Sally Dorritie
Mary Lee Farris' sister
Gabby
Barbara and George Hankins
Deb Hourahan and Family
Carolyn Keller's parents
Kim
Jeff Knox
Charles Li
Margaretta Macica
Andy Marussich
Lisa Montalbano and Family
Eileen Myslinski
Amy (Thompson) Nguyen
Jim Paffenroth
The Family of Marina Peterson
Loretta Richner
Kevin Schuler
Dorothy Sevcik
The Smith Family
Shawn Thatcher
Kim Valentini and Family
Ashley Wade
Molly Wanat
Anne Wood's dad

(If you or someone you know would like to be on this list or if you would like to take a name off the list, please call the church office and the name(s) will be included/omitted next month.)

Maney-Hawkins Meditation Garden

JUNE UPDATE

TWO NEW PLANTERS IN GARDEN

Two new planters have been added to the garden. Thanks to Rev. Kingsley for the idea and the added beauty it brings the space!

Memorial Pavers

Fourteen new engraved pavers will be installed in the month of June. To order a memorial paver for later this year to honor or remember a loved one, please see Pat in the church office. The cost of each paver is \$100.

Niches are Available for Purchase in the Memorial Columbarium

Fifteen niches remain available in the memorial columbarium. Each niche allows for double or single interment with four purchase options:

Payment in Full = \$2,500

12-Month Payment Option = \$250 / month for 12 months (\$3,000)

24-Month Payment Option = \$130 / month for 24 months (\$3,120)

36-Month Payment Option = \$ 90 / month for 36 months (\$3,240)

“Stewards of Our Garden”

Lend a hand in helping to keep the church’s garden neat...

It takes only a few minutes each month to pick up any litter, pull a weed, or sweep a few pavers clean, and you can help keep our garden beautiful! Contact Pat in the church office to sign up.

The JUNE/ early JULY schedule:

Jen and Gregg Piller:	June 1 – June 15
Beryl Yungman and Sue Varden:	June 16 – June 30
Barbara and George Hankins:	July 1 – July 15

Please call the church office (845-294-7991), Rev. Kingsley, or Wayne George (914-213-4093) for any information you need about the Maney-Hawkins Meditation Garden.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Confessing Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, guided and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we shall seek to use our gifts through worship, ministry, and mission, to gather the Church in from the world, to continue to nurture one another, to serve a world still broken, and to exemplify through common values and purposes Christian discipleship to the greater glory of God.

BOARD OF ELDERS

Class of 2013

Cecile Ayres
Cliff Bartley
Barbara Hankins
John Redman
Scott Roper
Rob Warner

Class of 2014

Linda Clark
Dom Fontana
Pat Green
Bill Hodges
Karen Magee
Grover vonPentz

Class of 2015

Kathleen Alevras
Wendy Bynum-Wade
Elizabeth Long
Louise Spencer
Sue Varden
Orra Wood

Clerk of Session: Sue Varden

BOARD OF DEACONS

Class of 2013

Lori Baird
Gina Gruber
John Gruber
Kari Taylor
Moses Ukejianya
Ashley Wade
Anne Wood

Class of 2014

Diana Bowe
Brendan Donohue
Lori Kilmer
Brian Meek
Jude Monteleone
Richard Paulus
Cheryl Zis

Class of 2015

Laura Colacci
Carol Gabella
Jonathan Laskoski
Marni Lewis
Tina McCloud
Gregg Piller
Jennifer Piller

Moderator of Deacons: Lori Baird

STAFF

Robert Clooney, Director of the Ministry of Music
Pat Schwetje, Church Secretary
Kim Hoernig, Church Treasurer
Richard Paulus, Financial Secretary
Anne Wood, CLP – Mission Pastor to Sullivan County